Merger of Oil PSUs

1030. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government moots PSU Oil Chiefs body to avoid turf war" which appeared in the Times of India dated the 16th October, 2001;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal for merging IOC, ONGC and GAIL, as reported;

(d) whether the opinions of the Oil Chiefs have been sought on the merger; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing systems for coordination are adequate.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Bonus to IOC employees

1031. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 9th November, 2001 captioned "Paltry bonus leaves IOC officers cribbing";

(b) whether it is a fact that Petronet India Limited a small company surviving on Indian Oil Corporation has paid two months salary ranging from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 80,000 as bonus whereas IOC reportedly paid a lump sum of Rs. 6,000 only at